



**Economic and Social Council
Operational Activities for Development Segment
ECOSOC Chamber
New York, 21 May to 23 May 2019**

Draft Programme as at 20 May

**Repositioning the United Nations development system
to best support the 2030 Agenda:
acting on our common vision**

It has been nearly three years since the adoption by the General Assembly of the 2016 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of UN system operational activities and a year since the adoption of the 2018 General Assembly resolution on repositioning the UN development system. The ECOSOC operational activities segment will allow Member States and other actors to take stock of progress in implementing these important decisions. It is the first opportunity for Member States to review progress in repositioning the UN Development System to better support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to give further guidance.

Chair of Segment:

- H.E. Ms. Kira Danganan-Azucena, Vice-President for the Operational Activities for Development Segment, ECOSOC

Day 1 - Tuesday 21 May 2019

Changes on the ground: getting it right

Morning Session

10:00 – 12:00pm

Session I

Opening and interactive debate with the Secretary-General

- H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King, Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations, President of ECOSOC
- H.E. Ms. Kira Danganan-Azucena, Charge D 'Affairs, Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations, Vice-President for the Operational Activities for Development Segment, ECOSOC

Keynote

- ☑ Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations
“Actioning the vision for a UN development system that delivers on the promise for people, planet and prosperity”

Discussant:

- ☑ H.E. Ms. Fatoumata Kaba, Permanent Representative of Guinea to the United Nations

Interactive Discussion

[National statements are expected in the General Debate on 22 and 23 May]

12:00 – 12:15pm

Session II

Strengthening the QCPR of operational activities for development of the UN system

- ☑ Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under Secretary-General, UN DESA

12:15 – 1:00pm

Session III

Discussion of the Report on the UN Development Coordination Office's operations, administration and finance

Presentation of the first annual report on the operations, administration and finance of the new UN Development Coordination Office (DCO). The session will include Q&As between Member States and the Director of UN DCO.

Presentation: *Annual Report on UN DCO's operations, administration and finance*

- ☑ Ms. Michelle Gyles-McDonnough, Director, Sustainable Development Unit, Executive office of the Secretary-General

Moderator:

- ☑ H.E. Ms. Mona Juul, Permanent Representative to Norway to the United Nations

Interactive Discussion

Afternoon Session

3:00pm – 6:00pm

Session IV

What has changed on the ground in the early days of reform?

Resident Coordinators from each region will address what has changed at country level to date in response to the repositioning of the UN development system. This session will discuss (i) whether UNCTs are better enabled to deliver joint results through tailored, context-specific response, (ii) what is being put in place to enhance UN country teams' support to countries for leveraging financing, partnerships and technologies, (iii) and field perspectives on the implications of the new UNDAF (now Cooperation Framework) and the relationships and accountability in UNCTs. Two-thirds of the session will be devoted to Q&As with Member States. The Resident

Coordinators will serve as resource persons from the floor throughout the Segment. The moderator in any session may invite RCs to share their inputs from the floor.

Moderator:

- ☑ H.E. Mr. Valentin Rybakov, Permanent Representative to Belarus to the United Nations

Panellists:

- ☑ Ms. Mbaranga Gasarabwe, Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator/Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mali
- ☑ Mr. Philippe Lazzarini, Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator/Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General), Lebanon
- ☑ Ms. Deidre Boyd, Resident Coordinator, Thailand
- ☑ Ms. Alice Shackelford, Resident Coordinator, Costa Rica
- ☑ Ms. Sezin Sinanoglu, Resident Coordinator, Bosnia & Herzegovina

Interactive Discussion

Discussion questions:

- What is changing on the ground in response to resolutions 71/243 and 72/279? What is next for implementation, and what results can we expect in the coming cycle?
- What actions or new practices would best help resident coordinators to focus the whole UN development system to maximize results?
- What support is needed from Member States and host governments to fully implement a “new generation of UN country teams”?
- How can different parts of the UNDS assist RCs and UN country teams support countries to leverage partnerships, financing and new technologies to deliver the SDGs?

Day 2 – Wednesday 22 May 2019

Maximizing impact through collective results

Morning Session

10:00am – 12:15pm Session V

Getting the regional architecture right: A Round-Table on the way forward

This session will discuss the recommendations for longer-term reprofiling and restructuring of the UN’s regional assets in different regions, exploring how the UN can better harness its regional assets (some 10,700 personnel and some \$1.6 billion in expenditure) to help Member States achieve the 2030 Agenda. It would start with a brief presentation on the outcomes of the regional review, followed by a moderated round-table, with panellists including senior government representatives from capitals, the Executive Secretary/Coordinator of the Regional Economic Commissions, and two Regional Directors from two UN system entities. Half of this session would be

dedicated to an interactive Q&A and feedback from the floor by Member States.

Presentation: *Secretary-General recommendations for restructuring UN regional assets in support of the 2030 Agenda*

- ☑ Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

Moderator:

- ☑ H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, former Prime Minister of Niger and former member of the Independent Team of Advisors to the ECOSOC Dialogue

Panellists:

- ☑ H.E. Mr. Masud Bin Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations
- ☑ Ms. Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary, ECLAC and Coordinator for the Regional Economic Commissions
- ☑ Mr. Jens Wandel, Special Adviser to Secretary-General on Reforms
- ☑ Mr. Mourad Wahba, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Arab States, UNDP

Discussant:

- ☑ Mr. Pieter Leenknecht, Head of Unit, Belgian Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid

Interactive Discussion

Discussion questions:

- What are the most important UN regional assets for the UN system to better support the 2030 Agenda in each region?
- How can UN country teams better leverage regional assets and expertise in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the country level?
- How will the new UN Regional Collaborative Platform (RCPs) provide better regional and country collaboration?
- What are the next steps for the implementation of SG proposals for the regional repositioning, on a region-by-region basis?
- How can the new RCPs ensure better horizontal and vertical coherence, with harmonized Secretariat functions through DCO?
- What key actions could the UN system take to better work with other regional organizations to address transboundary and cross-border sustainable development challenges?

12:15 - 1:00pm

General Debate

Full statements will be posted online at the 2019 OAS web-page. Delegations and groups are encouraged to deliver highlights.

Afternoon Session

3:00 – 4:45pm

Session VI

Multi-country office review

This session will discuss the findings and recommendations of the Multi-Country Office review in terms of their configuration, capacity, resource needs, role and development services, as mandated by the UNDS reform resolution and the QCPR. The discussion will be an opportunity to further guide the improvement of multi-country offices in the operationalization phase of the Secretary-General's recommendations, which will follow after the discussions, the feedback and the considerations expressed by Member States at the ECOSOC Segment. Ms. Gunilla Olsson, Head of UNDS Transition Team, will serve as a resource person for this session.

Presentation:

Recommendations from the review of the multi-country offices

- Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

Moderator:

- H.E. Ms. Mirgul Moldoisaeva, Permanent Representative to Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations

Panellists:

- H.E. Ms. Thilmeeza Hussain, Permanent Representative of the Maldives to the United Nations and AOSIS Bureau member
- Ms. Fekitamueloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

Interactive Discussion

Discussion questions:

- What are the critical needs that require increased specialized attention by MCOs?
- How can MCOs deliver the policy and technical support required by countries in a way that also builds countries' national capacity?
- In MCO-specific settings, what does the UN development system need to change in the way it programmes its work compared to its approach in a single country office configuration?
- How can the UN development system, through its MCOs, best support countries in dealing with transboundary issues as they implement the 2030 Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway?
- What kind of UNCT collaboration with regional and subregional inter-governmental organizations and mechanisms would best serve MCO-covered countries?

4:45 - 6:00pm

General Debate

Full statements will be posted online at the 2019 OAS web-page. Delegations and groups are encouraged to deliver highlights.

Day 3 – Thursday 23 May 2019

Closing the loop:

are the main elements in place to enable culture and behaviour changes?

Morning Session

10:00 – 12:00pm

Session VII

Dialogue with Executive Heads of the UN development system on Joint Results

Four Executive Heads from funds, programmes and specialized agencies will respond to a set of questions on progress with the implementation of the QCPR and new measures envisaged to implement the UNDS repositioning, including on the System-wide Strategic Document. This session will also be an opportunity for Member States to provide feedback on the System-wide Strategic Document draft annotated outline, shared as a reference document.

Moderator:

- H.E. Mr. Rubén Armando Escalante Hasbún, Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations

Panellists:

- Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator, UNDP and Vice-Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Group
- Ms. Henrietta H. Fore, Executive Director, UNICEF (Via VTC)
- Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director, UN Women (Via VTC)
- Ms. Laura Londén, Deputy Executive Director, UNFPA

Interactive Discussion

Discussion questions:

- What measures will you put in place to ensure that the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework is positioned as the most important instrument for planning and implementation of UNCT support? What measures are expected from the Member States and the UNDS to ensure that the Cooperation Framework is fully responsive and accountable to national needs and priorities?
- How will the System-wide Strategic Document encourage specific, concrete and targeted action is taken in addressing gaps and overlaps?
- What changes will your entity make in its global and regional strategic planning to support the SWSD and its implementation down to the country level?

12:00 - 1:00pm

General Debate

Full statements will be posted online at the 2019 OAS web-page. Delegations and groups are encouraged to deliver highlights.

Afternoon Session

3:00pm – 4.15pm

Session VIII

Enabling the shift: The Funding Compact

This session would tackle how the UN development system and Member States will achieve a shift in culture and behaviour to deliver on the commitments outlined in the Funding Compact. This would include accelerating results in countries, more collaboration, improved efficiencies, increased transparency and overall accountability for results. The discussion will touch on the revitalized UNDAF (now Cooperation Framework), the new Management and Accountability Framework, independent system-wide evaluation, and the commitments to common back-offices and common premises.

Moderator:

- Mr. Sanjay Reddy, Associate Professor of Economics at The New School for Social Research and former member of the Independent Team of Advisors to the ECOSOC Dialogue

Panellists:

- H.E. Mr. Jonathan Guy Allen, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the United Nations
- Mr. Elliott Harris, UN Chief Economist, DESA
- Ms. Anita Bhatia, Senior Adviser on Strategic Partnerships, UN Women

Discussant:

- H.E. Mr. Mohamed Omar Mohamed Gad, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations

Interactive Discussion

Discussion questions:

- What specific actions would you like to see undertaken system-wide that would increase your trust in the System?
- What are the changes in the Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework that will enable a shift to deliver more together?
- What steps are needed so that joint and system-wide evaluations and Cooperation Framework evaluations enhance accountability, further incentivize collaboration and reinvest lessons learned into programming with countries?
- What measures will be put in place to ensure greater transparency and clarity on the use and impact of the resources the UN development system has been entrusted with?

4:15 – 5:30pm

Session IX

Aligning system-wide and entity-level governance for better accountability

The General Assembly, ECOSOC and individual governing bodies of UN development system (UNDS) entities constitute a tiered intergovernmental policy-making and oversight system. In resolution 72/305, Member States decided to strengthen the ECOSOC operational activities segment to help accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda and ensure accountability of the UN development system on its collective results. They requested the segment to provide overall coordination and guidance to the UN development system; and to assess whether the objectives, priorities and strategies of the system adequately respond to the policies formulated by the General Assembly, including the QCPR and the resolution on repositioning of the UN development system. Transforming the Operational Activities Segment into a better accountability platform also require ensuring that its guidance has an impact on the work of governing bodies of the UNDS entities.

Moderator:

- H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King, Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations, President of ECOSOC

Panellists:

- H.E. Mr. Cho Tae-yul, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea, President of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board
- Ms. Tatjana von Steiger, Deputy Head, Global Cooperation, Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation
- Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under Secretary-General, DESA

Interactive Discussion

Discussion questions:

- What can Member States do to ensure the operational activities segment delivers on its role as an accountability platform for the UN development system?
- How can the operational activities segment help mobilize individual governing boards around the implementation of General Assembly's mandates on the UN development system?
- What are the key issues that Member States would like to address through strengthened intergovernmental guidance and oversight of the UN development system?
- What actions can Member States carry out in other governing bodies to improve coherent implementation of UNDS reforms?

5:30 – 6:00 pm

Closing

- Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations
- H. E. Ms. Kira Danganan-Azucena, Charge D 'Affairs, Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations, Vice-President for the Operational Activities for Development Segment, ECOSOC

OAS 2019 Side Events

The UN Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity in the context of the UN Development Reform

Organizer: UNCTAD

Co-sponsors: FAO, ILO, UNIDO

Time: 21 May, 1.15pm to 2.45pm

Location: CR-E

UN pooled financing: trends, innovation, results and the way forward

Organizer: Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO)

Co-sponsors:

Time: 23 May, 1.15pm to 2.45pm

Location: CR-12